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Phone (760) 240-9201 • Fax (760) 240-2642 • www.mojavewater.org

August 19, 1999

AUG 19 1999

Cal-Fed Public Hearing
San Bernardino, CA

Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to address my concerns on the Cal-Fed program and Sacramento Delta water issues.

I am John Norman, General Manager of the Mojave Water Agency (MWA). MWA is a State Water Project Contractor and Regional Water Agency covering 4,900 square miles of the high desert area in San Bernardino County. From Victor Valley, the Yucca Valley and Barstow to the vital Military bases at Fort Irwin and Nebo, water is the lifeblood of our region and vital to our economic well being.

Frankly I am dismayed at Cal-Fed's lack of progress in reaching consensus on Bay Delta water issues. After years of study and debate by Cal-Fed, State Water Contractors have absolutely no assurances of firm water supplies even in bountiful water years. For example, this summer, in the midst of an excellent water year, pumping on the State Water Project was cut back to 15% based on dubious claims that Delta Smelt were seriously impacted. It took a direct appeal to the governor to get water moving again. The accord between State and Federal agencies in your organization was supposed to return control of Delta water resources to California. Instead Federal regulators continue to control this vital water resource with little regard for California's water needs. Cal-Fed seems to offer only guarantees for fish, not the people and industry of California. We need a program that is equitable and balanced among the needs of cities, farms and the environment.

Cal-Fed offers no credible commitment to invest in needed facilities to improve our water supply and water quality. California needs additional water storage facilities near the Delta (to take advantage of surplus water when available), and an intake structure and conveyance system upstream from the Delta (to protect California fisheries and improve the quality of State Water Project water).

Thank you for the opportunity to present my comments.

Sincerely,

John W. Norman
General Manager, Mojave Water Agency



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Phone (760) 240-9201 • Fax

August 1

*Same
speaker
as 2T18
Comments differ
slightly
AUG 19 1999*

Copy 061418

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1A-0-*

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*2T18.2-
1A-0-
CR4*

Thank you for the opportunity to present my comments.

Sincerely,

John W. Norman
General Manager, Mojave Water Agency